

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1859

S E C R E T JIDDA 5014

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS BEIRUT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: MORGAN ABDUCTION

REF: (A) SECTO 06047; (B) JIDDA 4963

SUMMARY: FONMINISTRY INFORMED DCM JULY 13 THAT KING KHALID HAD PREVIOUS DAY INSTRUCTED THAT SAG'S CONCERN FOR COLONEL MORGAN'S WELFARE BE COMMUNICATED TO LEBANESE PRESIDENT FRENJIEH, PRIME MINISTER KARAME, AND TO PLO CHAIRMAN YASER ARAFAT (WHO IN JIDDA). DCM THANKED FORMINISTRY, AND SAID HE BELIEVED USG WOULD PRESENTLY BE EXPRESSING ITS APPRECIATION. AS A RESULT OF SAG DEMARCHE AMCITS AND OFFICIALS MAY BE MORE SECURE AGAINST FEDAYEEN EXTORTION. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF LETTER OF THANKS FROM SECRETARY TO KING KHALID.

1. DCM RECEIVED PRELIMINARY BRIEFING FROM FONMIN OFFICIAL EVENING JULY 12 AS TO SAG'S REACTION TO SECRETARY'S APPEAL ON BEHALF OF COLONEL MORGAN; MORE COMPLETE RESPONSE WAS PROVIDED TO DCM BY DIRECTOR OF WESTERN AFFAIRS AMBASSADOR IBRAHIM JULY 13.

2. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF KING KHALID, CROWN PRINCE FAHD, AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAUD BIN FAISAL, AMBASSADOR IBRAHIM SAID SAG CONDEMNED AND DEPLORED THE  
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ABDUCTION OF COLONEL MORGAN AND THE THREAT TO

HIS LIFE. KING KHALID HAD MET WITH PRINCE FAHD AND PRINCE SAUD ON THE QUESTION EARLY AFTERNOON OF JULY 12. AND HAD DIRECTED SAUDI AMBASSADOR IN LEBANON TO TELL PRESIDENT FRANGIE AND PRIME MINISTER KARAME OF KING KHALID'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE FATE OF COLONEL MORGAN. AMBASSADOR NURI SAID SAG HAD EXPRESSED SIMILAR SENTIMENTS TO PLO CHAIRMAN YASSIR ARAFAT WHO WAS HEADING PLO'S OBSERVER DELEGATION TO ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTER'S CONFERENCE.

3. AMBASSADOR IBRAHIM HAD HEARD MORNING OF JULY 13 OF COLONEL MORGAN'S RELEASE, AND SUPPOSED THAT RELEASE HAD OCCURRED BEFORE SAG'S ACTIONS COULD HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATED TO PARTIES CONCERNED OR HAD ANY EFFECT. HE WANTED HOWEVER TO LET US KNOW THAT IT HAD BEEN THE SAG'S INTENTION TO BE HELPFUL, AND THAT IT HAD MOVED AS RAPIDLY AS ITS OTHER COMMITMENTS (ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE) AND POOR COMMUNICATIONS HAD PERMITTED.

4. IN PASSING, AMBASSADOR IBRAHIM SAID USG HAD ACTED FIRMLY AND WISELY IN NOT GIVING IN TO ANY OF THE DEMANDS OF THE KIDNAPPERS. THIS WAS VERY MUCH THE SAG'S OWN POLICY, AND HAD BEEN THE POLICY OF KING FAISAL TOWARD ANY FORM OF TERRORIST EXTORTION. IBRAHIM QUOTED THE KING AS ONCE HAVING SAID THAT HE DID NOT CARE WHETHER AN AMBASSADOR, A PRINCE, OR TEN PRINCES WERE HELD TOWARDS RANSOM--HE WOULD NEVER GIVE IN. WITH REGARD TO PRINCES SUCH FIRMNESS WAS ESPECIALLY NECESSARY, KING FAISAL IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SAID, BECAUSE THEIR NUMBERS AND CONSTANT TRAVEL WOULD MAKE THEM IRRESISTIBLY ATTRACTIVE TO RADICAL KIDNAPPERS.

5. THE DCM TOLD IBRAHIM THAT WHETHER OR NOT THERE HAD BEEN A LINK BETWEEN SAUDI EFFORTS AND THE RELEASE OF COLONEL MORGAN, WE WERE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO HIS MAJESTY, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCE, PRINCE SAUD, AND TO NURI HIMSELF FOR THE HUMANITARIAN AND ENTIRELY ADMIRABLE POSITION THE SAG HAD TAKEN. HE THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE EXPRESSING ITS DEEP APPRECIATION TO KING KHALID.

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YM COMMENT: WHILE THE SAG'S DEMARCHE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN RELEVANT TO COLONEL MORGAN'S RELEASE, ITS DISAPPROVAL OF KIDNAPPING HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR TO YASSIR ARAFAT. BY WAY OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE THEREFORE, THE SAUDI DEMARCHE MAY HELP TO MAKE U.S. OFFICIALS AND CITIZENS MORE SECURE IN THE FUTURE FROM FEDAYEEN VIOLENCE.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED TO SEND THE  
FOLLOWING NOTE OF THANKS TO KING KHALID FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER.  
BEGIN TEXT:

YOUR MAJESTY:

I WISH TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE AND DEEP APPRECIATION  
AT THE STATESMANLIKE AND HUMANITARIAN POSITION THAT YOUR  
MAJESTY AND HIGH OFFICIALS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT TOOK IN  
RESPONSE TO OUR APPEAL ON BEHALF OF COLONEL ERNEST MORGAN.  
THE FAMILY OF COLONEL MORGAN AND THE COLONEL HIMSELF JOIN  
ME IN THIS TRIBUTE TO YOUR MAJESTY'S KEEN SENSE OF JUSTICE  
AND COMPASSION.

I BELIEVE THE VIGOROUS RESPONSE THAT WAS DIRECTED BY  
YOUR MAJESTY WILL HAVE A HELPFUL EFFECT ON THE POLITICAL  
ATMOSPHERE OF THE MIDDLE EAST; AS A RESULT OF THESE ACTIONS  
I BELIEVE ALSO THAT IN THE FUTURE OFFICIALS OF MY COUNTRY  
AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES WILL ENJOY GREATER PERSONAL  
SECURITY.

SINCERELY, HENRY A. KISSINGER. END TEXT.  
AKINS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, TERRORISTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, PRISONERS RELEASE, CAT-C  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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